AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. In amendments to the claims, additions are represented by **underlining** and deletions are represented by ~~**strikethrough**~~ or, in cases of five characters or fewer, by **[[double brackets]]**.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-9. (canceled)

10. (currently amended) An oriented web produced from a perforated extruded sheet comprising a propylene polymer comprising beta-spherulites in an amount sufficient to produce a K-value of about 0.2 to 0.95 when measured by x-ray diffraction or to show a beta crystalline melting peak during the first or second heating scan when measured using a differential scanning calorimeter, wherein the oriented web is biaxially oriented and wherein the web has thickness in the node junction region between the machine direction and transverse direction strands that is at least 10% less than that of a**n otherwise identical** biaxially oriented web made from **[[an]] a perforated,** extruded **[[poly]]**propylene sheet with no added beta nucleant and the same starting sheet thickness.

11. (withdrawn – currently amended) A method for making an oriented web, wherein the oriented web is uniaxially oriented or biaxially oriented and wherein the web has thickness in the node junction region between the machine direction and transverse direction strands that is at least 10% less than that of a**n otherwise identical** uniaxially oriented or biaxially oriented web made from **[[an]] a perforated,** extruded **[[poly]]**propylene sheet with no added beta nucleant and the same starting sheet thickness, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) feeding a concentrate and a resinous propylene polymer to an extruder to melt from a polymeric sheet, wherein the concentrate comprises a propylene resin and a beta-nucleating

agent, wherein the beta-nucleating agent is present in a concentration in a range of 1.2% to 0.036% by weight of the total polymer content,

(b) quenching the polymeric sheet at a quench temperature sufficient to produce a propylene sheet comprising beta-spherulites in an amount sufficient to produce a K-value of about 0.2 to 0.95 when measured by x-ray diffraction or to show a beta crystalline melting peak during the first or second heating scan when measured using a differential scanning calorimeter,

(c) extruding the quenched sheet,

(d) perforating the extruded sheet, and

(e) orienting the perforated sheet uniaxially or biaxially, wherein the orienting step comprises heating the perforated sheet to a temperature less than or equal to 155 °C.

12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended) The oriented web of claim 10, wherein the extruded sheet can be run at line speeds that are at least 5% faster than the line speeds for an **otherwise identical perforated,** extruded **[[poly]]**propylene sheet with no added beta nucleant and the same starting thickness.

14. (currently amended) The oriented web of claim 10, wherein the oriented web has a tensile strength measured at 2% elongation in the machine direction, that is at least 10% higher than that of a**n otherwise identical** biaxially oriented web made from **[[an]] a perforated,** extruded **[[poly]]**propylene sheet with no added beta nucleant and the same starting thickness.

15. (currently amended) The oriented web of claim 10, wherein the oriented web has a tensile strength measured at 5% elongation in the machine direction, that is at least 10% higher than that of a**n otherwise identical** biaxially oriented web made from **[[an]] a perforated,**

extruded **[[poly]]**propylene sheet with no added beta nucleant and the same starting thickness.

16. (currently amended) The oriented web of claim 10, wherein the oriented web has a torsional rigidity that is at least 10% higher than that of a**n otherwise identical** biaxially oriented web made from **[[an]] a perforated,** extruded **[[poly]]**propylene sheet with no added beta nucleant and the same starting thickness.

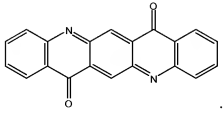
17. (withdrawn) A concentrate comprising a polypropylene resin and a beta-nucleating agent, wherein the beta-nucleating agent is present in a concentration in a range of 1.2% to 0.036% by weight of the total polymer content.

18. (withdrawn) The concentrate of claim 17, wherein the beta-nucleating agent is present in a concentration of 0.047% by weight of the total polymer content.

19. (withdrawn) The concentrate of claim 17 wherein the polypropylene is selected from the group consisting of polypropylene homopolymer and copolymers of polypropylene containing other alpha-olefin monomers.

20. (withdrawn) The concentrate of claim 17 in the form of a pellet.

21. (withdrawn) The concentrate of claim 17 wherein the beta-nucleating agent has the structural formula:



22. (withdrawn) The concentrate of claim 17 further comprising an additive selected from the group consisting of lubricants, antioxidants, ultraviolet absorbers, radiation resistant agents,

antiblocking agents, antistatic agents, coloring agents, and opacifiers, which do not nucleate the alpha crystal form of polypropylene.

23. (withdrawn) The method of claim 11, wherein step (a) further comprises feeding to the extruder an additive selected from the group consisting of lubricants, antioxidants, ultraviolet absorbers, radiation resistant agents, antiblocking agents, antistatic agents, coloring agents, and opacifiers, which do not nucleate the alpha crystal form of polypropylene.

24. (withdrawn – currently amended) The method of claim 11, wherein step (e) comprises stretching the perforated sheet at a higher drawing rate relative to a drawing rate used to stretch a**n otherwise identical** perforated**, extruded [[poly]]**propylene sheet with no added beta nucleant and the same starting thickness.

25. (currently amended) An oriented web produced from a perforated extruded sheet comprising a propylene polymer comprising beta-spherulites in an amount sufficient to produce a K-value of about 0.2 to 0.95 when measured by x-ray diffraction or to show a beta crystalline melting peak during the first or second heating scan when measured using a differential scanning calorimeter, wherein the oriented web is uniaxially oriented and wherein the web has thickness in the node junction region between the machine direction and transverse direction strands that is at least 10% less than that of a**n otherwise identical** uniaxially oriented web made from **[[an]] a perforated,** extruded **propylene** sheet with no added beta nucleant and the same starting sheet thickness.

26. (currently amended) The oriented web of claim 25, wherein the extruded sheet can be run at line speeds that are at least 5% faster than the line speeds for an **otherwise identical perforated,** extruded **[[poly]]**propylene sheet with no added beta nucleant and the same starting thickness.

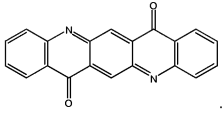
27. (currently amended) The oriented web of claim 25, wherein the oriented web has a tensile strength measured at 2% elongation in the machine direction, that is at least 10% higher than that of a**n otherwise identical** uniaxially oriented web made from **[[an]] a perforated,**

extruded **[[poly]]**propylene sheet with no added beta nucleant and the same starting thickness.

28. (currently amended) The oriented web of claim 25, wherein the oriented web has a tensile strength measured at 5% elongation in the machine direction, that is at least 10% higher than that of a**n otherwise identical** uniaxially oriented web made from **[[an]] a perforated,** extruded **[[poly]]**propylene sheet with no added beta nucleant and the same starting thickness.

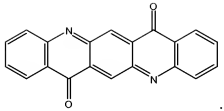
29. (currently amended) The oriented web of claim 25, wherein the oriented web has a torsional rigidity that is at least 10% higher than that of a**n otherwise identical** uniaxially oriented web made from **[[an]] a perforated,** extruded **[[poly]]**propylene sheet with no added beta nucleant and the same starting thickness.

30. (previously presented) The oriented web of claim 25, wherein the beta-spherulites are produced by addition of a beta-nucleating agent having the structural formula:



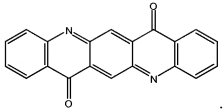
31. (previously presented) The oriented web of claim 25, wherein the propylene polymer is selected from polypropylene homopolymer and copolymers of polypropylene containing other alpha-olefin monomers.

32. (previously presented) The oriented web of claim 10, wherein the beta-spherulites are produced by addition of a beta-nucleating agent having the structural formula:



33. (previously presented) The oriented web of claim 10, wherein the propylene polymer is selected from polypropylene homopolymer and copolymers of polypropylene containing other alpha-olefin monomers.

34. (withdrawn) The method of claim 11, wherein the beta-nucleating agent has the structural formula:



35. (withdrawn) The method of claim 11, wherein the propylene polymer is selected from polypropylene homopolymer and copolymers of polypropylene containing other alpha-olefin monomers.

36. (withdrawn – currently amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the extruded sheet is run at line speeds that are at least 5% faster than the line speeds for an **otherwise identical perforated,** extruded **[[poly]]**propylene sheet with no added beta nucleant and the same starting thickness.